

**MTR South Island Line Opens for Passenger Service  
Extending Railway Network to Reach All 18 Districts of Hong Kong**

With the departure of the first South Island Line Train from South Horizons Station for Admiralty Station this morning (28 December 2016), the convenience and comfort of MTR railway service was officially extended to the Southern District.

The 7-km South Island Line comprises four new stations and an expanded interchange at Admiralty Station. It offers the 350,000 people living and working in the Southern District reduced journey times as well as seamless connections to the MTR railway network which now covers all 18 districts of Hong Kong. The frequency of train service during peak periods for SIL will be approximately 3.5 minutes, while train service during non-peak periods will be approximately 4.5 minutes.

Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation arrived at South Horizons Station early this morning to welcome passengers who were eagerly awaiting their chance to experience the new fully automatic train operation. He was joined by representatives of the Southern District community for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the station concourse before inviting passengers to board the first train.

Mr Leong said: "Today is a special and memorable day for all of us as the MTR network officially extends to the Southern District with the opening of the South Island Line. With the Kwun Tong Line extension to Ho Man Tin and Whampoa stations have been opened in October, this is the second new railway service that we have opened within this year. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Southern District community for their immense support and patience during the construction of this new line. My profound gratitude also goes to the engineering specialists, contractors and their construction workers, and operations staff for their dedication throughout the planning, construction and commissioning phases."

To welcome guests and passengers on the maiden train service from South Horizons Station, Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director of MTR Corporation made the first announcement on the opening train.

In the initial stage of operations, additional staff and service assistants have been deployed at stations to help passengers familiarise themselves with the new facilities. At Admiralty Station, giant eye-catching South Island Line directional signs with a light green colour are displayed in prominent positions from concourse to platform levels. At the same time, additional signs indicating the Tsuen Wan Line in red and Island Line in blue have been installed to guide passengers to interchange to other lines.

“For the initial period, train operations staff will be deployed on the trains to monitor the fully automatic train operations. I would like to thank passengers in advance for their patience and understanding should teething problems occur during the initial period of operations,” said Mr Lau.

To prepare for the South Island Line’s opening, more than 700 MTR and contractor staff worked overnight to change more than 33,000 signs and information boards throughout the MTR network as well as update digital information and fare collection software to incorporate the new line and its stations.

Construction of the South Island Line began in 2011. The medium-capacity line extends railway service from Admiralty Station to the south side of Hong Kong Island through tunnel and viaduct sections to serve new stations at Ocean Park, Wong Chuk Hang, Lei Tung and South Horizons. The connectivity of the community is also enhanced by the addition of pedestrian facilities such as walkways and footbridges.

-End-

#### About MTR Corporation

MTR Corporation is regarded as one of the world’s leading railway operators for safety, reliability, customer service and cost efficiency. In its home base of Hong Kong, the Corporation operates nine commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which more than 5.5 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 5 million passenger trips are made on the rail services it operates outside Hong Kong in the Mainland of China, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia. In addition, the Corporation is involved in a range of railway construction projects as well as railway consultancy and contracting services around the world. Leveraging on its railway expertise, the Corporation is involved in the development of transit-related residential and commercial property projects, property management, shopping malls leasing and management, advertising media and telecommunication services.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit [www.mtr.com.hk](http://www.mtr.com.hk).

Photo captions:

1. Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer (3rd from right); Dr Jacob Kam, Managing Director-Operations & Mainland Business (1st from right); Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director (2nd from left); Dr Philco Wong, Projects Director of MTR Corporation (1st from left) join Mr Chu Ching-hong, Chairman of Southern District Council (4th from left); Mr Chan Fu-ming, Vice Chairman of Southern District Council (2nd from right) and Mr Chow Chor-tim, District Officer (Southern) (3rd from left) in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the start of the new railway service.



2. Passengers and railway fans are excited to enter the new station and experience the fully automatic train operation service of the South Island Line after Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation (middle) opens Entrance / Exit B of South Horizons Station.





3. Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director of MTR Corporation (2nd from left) makes the first announcement on the fully automatic operation train to welcome guests and passengers to board the "South Island Line Opening Train".



4. Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation shares the excitement of passengers in taking the opening train from South Horizons Station.

